

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SY-03 A-01 OPR-02 DRC-01

L-03 /055 W

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P R 251615Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8259

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL POZNAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, PINS, PL, US

SUBJECT: POZNAN CONSULATE LOCALS ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED
SAMIZDAT ACTIVITIES

MOSCOW FOR AMBASSADOR DAVIES

1. SUMMARY: AS OF COB MARCH 25 TWO USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEES
OF OUR CONSULATE IN POZNAN ARE IN JAIL IN POZNAN WHILE
UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR THE REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION
OF A SATIRICAL POEM CRITICAL OF PRICE RISES IN
POLAND. THE CONSULATE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND HAS BEEN TOLD THAT THE INVESTIGATION
IS LIKELY TO TAKE AT LEAST THIRTY DAYS, DURING
WHICH THE EMPLOYEES WILL REMAIN IN JAIL. THE EMBASSY
HAS ADVISED THE MFA THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THIS INCIDENT,
WHICH WE DEPLORE, BUT WHICH ACCORDING TO OTHER LOCAL
EMPLOYEES AT POZNAN CONSISTED ONLY OF ONE LOCAL TYPING
UP A FEW COPIES OF THE POEM FOR OTHER LOCALS. END SUMMARY.

THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER IN POZNAN LEARNED FROM CONSULATE
LOCAL EMPLOYEES THE MORNING OF MARCH 23 THAT FIVE
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EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN ARRESTED THE PREVIOUS EVENING AND TAKEN

TO THE POLICE STATION FOR QUESTIONING IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR POSSESSION OF TYPEWRITTEN COPIES OF A SATIRICAL POEM CRITICAL OF PRICE INCREASES IN POLAND. IT WAS THOUGHT AT THAT TIME THAT ALL HAD BEEN RELEASED EXCEPT THE USIS DRIVER, JANKOWIAK. THE USIS LIBRARIAN, STANISLAWA WOCH, COULD NOT BE LOCATED BUT THE OTHER LOCALS THOUGHT SHE HAD BEEN RELEASED.

3. ACCORDING TO THE LOCALS, JANKOWIAK HAD BEEN GIVEN A COPY OF THE POEM AT THE PUBLIC MARKET AND BROUGHT IT BACK TO SHOW TO HIS FELLOW LOCALS. WOCH TYPED UP FOUR COPIES FOR THOSE LOCALS WHO WANTED IT. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE THE TEXT OF THE POEM BUT IT APPARENTLY ENDED WITH A PLAY ON WORDS SUGGESTING THAT THE GIEREK REGIME COULD END IN THE FLAMES OF LOCAL PARTY HEADQUARTERS AS GOMULKA'S HAD IF PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE.

4. THE CHARGE TOOK THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE OF INFORMING MFA DEPARTMENT III ACTING DIRECTOR PAWLISZEWSKI OF THE INCIDENT BY PHONE ON MARCH 23, POINTING OUT THAT WE DEPLORED THE FACT THAT OUR POLISH EMPLOYEES MIGHT HAVE ENGAGED IN SUCH ACTIVITIES ON CONSULATE PREMISES AND THAT CONSUL MALIN WOULD SPEAK TO HIS POLISH EMPLOYEES ON MONDAY MORNING, AND REITERATE HIS STANDING INSTRUCTIONS AGAINST ANY SUCH ACTIVITY ON OUR PREMISES.

5. THE MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 25 MAIL BROUGHT THE CONSULATE A NOTICE FROM THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE STATING THAT CONSULATE EMPLOYEES JANKOWIAK AND WOCH WERE IN JAIL UNDER INVESTIGATIVE DETENTION. CONSUL LOPAKIEWICZ WENT TO THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO SEEK FURTHER DETAILS AND WAS INFORMED THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS LIKELY TO LAST A MINIMUM OF 30 DAYS, DURING WHICH WOCH AND JANKOWIAK WOULD REMAIN UNDER ARREST. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE EMPLOYEE'S NEXT OF KIN SEEK LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THEM FROM A LAWYERS' CIRCLE. IN RESPONSE TO LOPATKIEWICZ'S QUESTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BAIL. THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE SAID THIS COULD BE PROPOSED BY LEGAL COUNSEL BUT THAT IT WAS RARELY GRANTED.

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6. MALIN HAS AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE MORNING OF MARCH 26 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH THE POZNAN FIRST DEPUTY WOJEWODA (THE WOJEWODA IS ABSENT FROM POZNAN). HE WILL MAKE THE POINT THAT WHILE THIS WAS AN IMPROPER ACTION BY CONSULATE LOCAL EMPLOYEES, AS FAR AS HE IS AWARE FROM DISCUSSING IT WITH THE LOCAL EMPLOYEES, IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF COLLEAGUES AT WORK REQUESTING AND OBTAINING COPIES OF THE POEM. HE WILL ADD THAT WE DEPLORE SUCH ACTIVITY AND HAVE REITERATED

OUR STRICT INSTRUCTIONS FORBIDDING IT AND HOPE THAT THE INVESTIGATION CAN BE COMPLETED AS QUICKLY AND PAINLESSLY AS POSSIBLE FOR ALL CONCERNED.

7. AFTER LEARNING ON MARCH 25 THAT TWO EMPLOYEES, NOT ONE, WERE UNDER DETENTION, THE EMBASSY PASSED THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ALONG TO MFA DEPARTMENT III. WOJTOWICZ, WHO IN PAWLISZEWSKI'S ABSENCE TOOK THE CALL, COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT BU "SPEAKING OFF THE TOP OF HIS HEAD" HE WONDERED IF THE INVESTIGATION WASN'T LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSULATE EQUIPMENT HAVING BEEN USED TO REPRODUCE THE POEM FOR DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE THE CONSULATE. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR ASSURED WOJTOWICZ THAT OUR CONSUL'S DISCUSSION OF THE INCIDENT WITH CONSULATE POLISH EMPLOYEES INDICATED THAT ONLY A FEW COPIES HAD BEEN MADE BY ONE OF THEM FOR THOSE WHO HAD WANTED THEM AND THAT WE THOUGHT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT OUR POLISH EMPLOYEES COULD HAVE ENGAGED IN ANY SIGNIFICANT REPRODUCTION OF POEMS ON CONSULATE PREMISES WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE.

8. COMMENT: UNDER POLISH LAW, SUSPECTS MAY BE HELD ONLY THREE DAYS WITHOUT SPECIFIC CHARGES BEING BROUGHT. AFTER THAT THEY CAN BE HELD UP TO 90 DAYS LONGER PENDING INVESTIGATION OF THE CHARGES. THUS, UNLESS JANKOWIAK AND WOCH ARE SUDDENLY RELEASED, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. WE BELIEVE THIS INCIDENT IS AN INDICATION OF THE HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY OF THE GOP TO CRITICISM ON WAGE AND PRICE POLICY AND NOT A CALCULATED INCIDENT DIRECTED AGAINST THE CONSULATE.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, CONSULAR PERSONNEL, FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEES, ARRESTS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974WARSAW01626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740063-1028
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740316/aaaaapfk.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POZNAN CONSULATE LOCALS ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED SAMIZDAT ACTIVITIES
TAGS: APER, PINS, PL, US, USIS, (DAVIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005